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IN THIS ISSUE:

PRODUCER PRICE INDEXES-FEBRUARY 1992

LABOR SECRETARY MARTIN AND DISTRICT MAYOR KELLY
JOIN FORCES TO ENHANCE WORKPLACE SKILLS
IN D.C. NEIGHBORHOODS

$20 MILLION CONTRACT AWARDED FOR OPERTION OF
NEW JERSEY JOB CORPS CENTER

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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The U.S. Department of Labor operates through 10 regional offices located in major cities across the country. If you want a local angle on a news or feature story provided through this service--or have a direct news inquiry--you may contact one of the offices listed below. This listing includes the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Regional Directors for Public Affairs and the States in their regions:

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Week of March 23, 1992

PRODUCER PRICE INDEXES--FEBRUARY 1992

WASHINGTON -- The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.2 percent seasonally adjusted from January to February, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reports. The February increase followed small declines in January and December. Prices also turned up at earlier stages of processing. The Intermediate Goods Price Index rose 0.5 percent over the month after dropping by the same amount in January, and the Crude Goods Price Index climbed 1.7 percent following three consecutive decreases.

Among finished goods, food prices turned up substantially after declining in 8 of the 9 preceding months. The index for energy goods inched down following much larger drops in January and December. Outside of the food and energy sectors, prices edged up 0.1 percent after increasing 0.3 percent a month earlier. Among intermediate and crude goods, prices rose considerably for a wide range of manufacturing and construction materials.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.2 percent in February to 121.9 (1982=100). From February 1991 to February 1992, the Finished Goods Price Index rose 0.4 percent. During this same period, consumer food prices decreased 0.9 percent, the finished energy goods index fell 5.7 percent, consumer goods other than foods and energy increased 2.8 percent, and capital equipment prices were up 1.7 percent. The Intermediate Goods Price Index was 1.6 percent lower in February 1992 than in the same month a year before, and crude material prices were down 4.9 percent from their February 1991 level.

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Week of March 23, 1992

LABOR SECRETARY MARTIN AND DISTRICT MAYOR KELLY
JOIN FORCES TO ENHANCE WORKPLACE SKILLS
IN D.C. NEIGHBORHOODS

WASHINGTON -- Labor Secretary Lynn Martin has announced the U.S. Labor Department is awarding a $300,000 grant to the District of Columbia. The grant will fund a demonstration literacy and job training project for residents of the Adams-Morgan neighborhood.

"Many of residents of this neighborhood face multiple barriers that keep them even from taking part in job training programs," said Secretary Martin. "They may not be able to communicate well in English and they may not be familiar with the culture. They are at-risk youth, ex-offenders, those who are at a severe economic disadvantage. They not only need job training and guidance in finding jobs, they need help feeling comfortable within our society. This project will help answer those needs."

Participants in the demonstration project will be given language classes if necessary, job training and job placement assistance. The project will concentrate on at-risk youth, ex-offenders, economically disadvantaged persons and those with disabilities in the Adams-Morgan, Mt. Pleasant and Columbia Heights neighborhoods.

The D.C. Department of Employment Services will operate the 12-month "Special Employment Training Demonstration in Literacy, Language and Skill Development Project" with the support of community groups. The project is funded through the federal Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), which provides job training for economically disadvantaged adults and youth, dislocated workers and others who face significant employment barriers.

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Week of March 23, 1992

$20 MILLION CONTRACT AWARDED FOR OPERATION OF
NEW JERSEY JOB CORPS CENTER

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Labor Department has awarded a $20.8 million contract to ITT Job Training Services, Inc., to operate the Edison Job Corps Center in Edison, N.J.

The funds, awarded for the period April 1, 1992, to March 31, 1994, will be used to operate the center, recruit new students and help place graduates of the Job Corps program.

The Edison Job Corps Center -- with a capacity of 530 students -- offers vocational training in plumbing, word processing, autobody repair, painting and other areas. In addition, it also provides basic education, work experience, counseling, health care, clothing, meals and other supportive services.

Job Corps provides education and vocational training to nearly 68,000 students each year at 106 centers in 42 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. Established in 1964, the program prepares disadvantaged youth aged 16-21 for productive employment.

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FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The labor force -- individuals 16 years of age and older holding or seeking jobs -- will increase by 26 million between 1990 and 2005, according to the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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The U.S. labor force growth will be 21 percent between 1990 and the year 2005, slower than during the past 15 years, according to the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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Between 1990 and 2005, the growth of new entrants to the labor force will slow, reflecting lower birth rates in the 1970's and 1980's compared to the 1950's and 1960's, according to the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The proportion of the population participating in the labor force will increase at a slower rate than over the 1975-90 period.

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